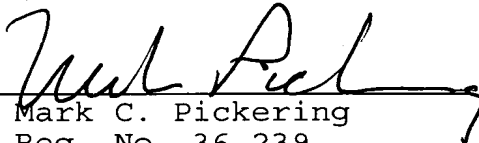


amended to change the word "ring" to --line-- . In addition, claims 12-14 have been cancelled, and claim 31 has been added.

With respect to the election of species requirement, the Examiner required applicant to elect a single disclosed species. As a result, applicant elects the invention shown in FIG. 16. Amended claim 1, original claims 2 and 3, amended claims 5 and 6, original claims 9-11, and original claims 15-23 read on the invention shown in FIG. 16.

Respectfully submitted,  
LIMBACH & LIMBACH L.L.P.

Dated: 4-13-00

By:   
Mark C. Pickering  
Reg. No. 36,239

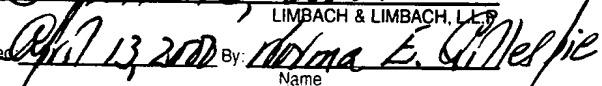
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

Atty Docket No. NSC1-D8400

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

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Name